

**Hopkinton Budget Committee
Town Hall
Final Minutes
December 10, 2008**

Present: Karen Irwin, Chair; Tom O'Donnell, HVP Representative; Cameron Ford, and Chris Lawless, Selectmen Representative; Danny Coen, David Lancaster; and Bob Carpenter, CVP Representative, David Luneau, School Board Representative; and; Patrice Gerseny.

Absent: Marion Paxton

The meeting was called to order at 6:34 pm.

Chairman Irwin opened the meeting by moving the agenda around and asking Brian Blake, Superintendent of Hopkinton and Michelle Clark, Business Administrator to come to the table so that we could review the agenda items pertaining to the school. We started off with the detail financials reviewing expenses in the tuition reimbursement, out of school suspension, miscellaneous expenses for the school board, driver education program, student activities, alcohol drug self esteem program, and food service. Michelle Clark explained the methodology regarding the school tuition rate as been current budget versus last year expenses. On other expenses such as out of school suspension was when children could not be in school for their suspension, driver education is self funded except for the cost of the books. Alcohol and drug self esteem program was a previously funded grant and now the program continues with town funds. The food service program is being reviewed in detail to try to make the program self sufficient and not dependent on town funds.

Next the Budget Committee reviewed all revenues that come in from programs such as school band camp, artists in residence program, and food service. These programs generate a small amount of revenues to help of offset the program costs. Food Service was around \$50,000 short of being a self supporting program.

David Luneau went over the School Budget process and where it stands. They handed out budget process overview at the budget workshop last night. The goal that the School Board set for the Superintendent was the same increase as last year at 3.68% to not increase more than last year and maintain services in this financial time of need. In regards to Hopkinton Schools 2.0 they are prioritizing cuts to make sure they make good fiscal sense and meet our education needs. The Superintendent and the leadership team are looking to generate new revenues as well. The School is a silver metal school again this year, one of three in New Hampshire. Some of the things being reviewed are scheduling efficiencies, energy efficiencies, electronic versus print medium and offering other courses like French afterschool. Superintendent Blake handed out an update on Hopkinton 2.0 and went over where they stood regarding committees. Currently the only committee that had a non-school member was the steering committee. More would be set up in the near future. David Luneau also handed out an update regarding special education. The contracts although ratified had not gone through final review and so at this time were not handed out to the budget committee.

Bob Carpenter and Tom O'Donnell had no financial information to report. Chris Lawless went over the expense report and the pending issue of the test results of wells on 6

family homes. The six wells did reflect some toxin levels above the acceptable limits as an immediate step we need to supply bottled water for those homes until a more permanent solution could be determined. It will mean an increase in the budget this year versus a decrease as expected. How much the budget needs to increase is still being determined.

David Lancaster went over an e-mail from Al Bloomquist and questioned several of the expenses in the e-mail. These were things such as travel, meals, tuition, shoe allowances, and artist fees. David Luneau would respond to several of these questions in more detail.

Next we went over the November 25, 2008 minutes, after minor modifications Danny Coen made a motion to accept as amended, and David Luneau seconded the motion all were in favor. Tom O'Donnell requested a listing of teacher salaries, longevity pay and other scheduled activities such as coaching that teachers get. A motion was made by Tom O'Donnell to get the information Bob Carpenter seconded the motion; all were in favor except David Lancaster and David Luneau abstained. The motion carried. Public Comments:

Diane LaChance asked about the change in law regarding drop out students. David Luneau responded about where that program stands at the moment.

A motion was accepted to end the meeting by David Luneau and seconded by Danny Coen, all were in favor and the meeting ended at 10:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Karen Irwin, Chairman